



April 23, 2017

Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 2:42-47

1 Pt 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31

Touching Jesus' Mercy

The memory and marks of our sufferings can lead us to lose our peace. For Christ, this is not so. He shows the disciples his wounds and says, "Peace be with you." It may seem contradictory, but it isn't. To touch Christ's wounded side is to touch his mercy, to touch a love that overcomes everything. In spite of my sins wounding him, he comes to me in loving mercy. Jesus' wounds bring peace.

When the apostles see his hands and side, they rejoice. His wounds are a sign that it is really him. No one else has those marks. His wounds are his identification! His wounds bring joy.

Thomas misses Jesus' first apparition, returning

and demanding proof before he will believe. Rather than becoming angry, Jesus shows him his wounds. He invites Thomas to touch the signs of his suffering, and Thomas believes. Jesus' wounds bring faith.

We, too, need to insert our hands and hearts into Christ's side, to come into contact with his love and mercy. Only then can we be healed. Only then can we experience real peace, joy, and faith.

That's why Jesus breathes on his disciples and says, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (John 20:22-23). He wants to heal their wounds and see them produce joy and peace in others. God's grace is to reach all generations through the power of forgiveness he entrusts to his Church. The sacrament of penance is exactly that.

We acknowledge our sins and Jesus responds with understanding, forgiveness, and counsel.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



For Reflection

How often and how sincerely do you receive mercy through reconciliation? How often do you show and share the forgiveness and mercy you have been blessed with?

*"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23).*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann Pastor
 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
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 Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880
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Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645
 Academy Website.....www.icaberks.org
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 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC
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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 23, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Ralph Bascelli

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Dolly & Frank Mariani	THURS	7:00 PM	Anna & Joseph Lestochi & Pasquale Appollonio
SUN	7:30 AM	Florence & Oralndo LeBresco	FRI	7:30 AM	Thomas A. Haight Jr.
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Linda Estelle
	11:00 AM	Ron Walp	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON		No Mass		9:00 AM	Dec'd Members of Anthony Lubas Family
TUES	7:00 PM	Anna T. Lukes		11:00 AM	Deacon Larry Fessler – 20 th Anniversary
WED	7:30 AM	Ralph Bascelli			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Dowling 5:15 Costanzo 7:30 Schwendt 9:00 Grieco 11:00 Hafer

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Joe Bailey	Sherry McCollum	Joe Smith, Larry McCall, Jimmy Stevens
SUN	7:30AM	Jim Kaucher	Toni Kaucher	Vinny Ferrara, Tim Jones, Sarah Jane Wood
	9:00AM	Barbara Giordano	Mary Gray	Tim Stewart, Will Gray
	11:00AM	Leonard Cline Jr.	Victor González	Ethan and Leonard Cline, Briana González

Second Collection Next Week is for the Charity Fund

Be a "Knight for a Day" at ICA

April 25, 26, 27, 2017 - 9am- 1pm

Students interested in grades 2-7 are invited to spend the morning shadowing a current ICA student and enjoy lunch and recess with their future classmates.

School tours for families interested in Preschool-Grade 8 will be available!

Please contact Mrs. Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org to RSVP. Students interested in shadowing

please RSVP by Monday April 24th

to assist our staff in planning your student's day, as drop in shadow visits will be difficult to accommodate.

Join us to see what an ICA education can do for your student!

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:

Marco Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Dan Casciano, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Steve Mammarella, Joseph Kolenda, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Robert Thomas, Rita Dougherty, Norma Nanni, Lou Franco, Lucille Schiel, John Fritz, Maria Houck, Lucy Doney, Evelyn Segneri, Mary Okuniewski, Katie Davis, Joe Weyand, Craig Mammarella, John T. LeFosse, Mark McDonald, Mary Hatrzman, Mark Cuccaro, Ron Kretzman and TJ Doyle

Pray for the recently departed: Cathy Hunsberger

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sat 04/29 4-5pm Confession

Women's Society Bake Sale

WHAT'S HAPPENING

There will be no Mass on Monday, April 24th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Immaculate Conception Early Education Program

is now enrolling for its new Pre-Kindergarten Program, which now features an option to attend five full days or five half days or a combination as needed from 8:30am – 2:45pm or 8:30am to Noon.

This program will prepare students to enter our full day Kindergarten both academically and socially. The curriculum will include weekly art, music and library visits, as well as age appropriate physical education experiences. Before care options are available for all students and after care options for full day students.

For more information please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Immaculate Conception Academy Enrolling for 2017-2018

Immaculate Conception Academy provides a 21st century education for students in Preschool through grade 8, including a full day Kindergarten program as well as Art, Music and STEM education.

ICA also offers CYO and Berks Catholic Youth sponsored athletics, an instrumental music program, and other activities including Drama Club, Science Explorers and an active Student Council!

Before and after school care options are available! Ask us about transfer grants of up to \$1500 for students entering grades 1-7!

Find out what an ICA education can do for your student! Please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-4645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org to arrange a tour.

Immaculate Conception Academy Transfer Grants

Any public, private, or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy, grades 1 through 7, will receive a Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant of \$1,500 over two school years (\$1,000 the first year; \$500 the second). Call Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645.

All women of the parish are invited to join the Women's Society for our annual visit to Camilla Hall on Wednesday, May 10th. We will meet at the church at 9am. We spend time in prayer with the Sisters, have time for lunch, and then offer a fun afternoon of Bingo for the retired/infirm Sisters of Camilla.

Prizes for the bingo game (i.e. envelopes with some money, stamps and cards, etc.) will be most welcome along with some sweet pick up treats for the ladies. The sisters will provide a lunch for us. There will be a cost of \$8 to cover the luncheon.

Join us in giving back to these women who have spent their lives serving others. Please call Marsha at 610-385-6319 for more information and to reserve your spot.

Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception extends our prayerful best wishes to Nicholas A. Kieffer who was received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, April 15th. Nicholas made his profession of faith on that occasion, was sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation and joined us at the table of the Lord by reception of Holy Communion. We pray that God will continue to bless Nicholas and his family.

MARCH FOR LIFE - April 30th at Berks Catholic - Rally at 2pm followed by the March at 3pm to Holy Rosary Church. Buses will transport all participants back to Berks Catholic. Donations of baby items requested or Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Contact Helen 610-582-1075.

The Serra Clubs of the Allentown diocese will host a Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 6th at Saint Mary's in Kutztown. The day begins with registration and breakfast at 8:15am followed by a Holy Hour with the Rosary for Vocations and chanted Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction with Monsignor Scheaffer. Father Lucien Longtin, SJ, who celebrated his 50th jubilee as a priest in 2015 will share his vocation story with us, and Father Jose Kumbolickal MSFS, who has served as a Provincial Superior and is currently visiting professor of theology at DeSales University will reflect on his experiences. A catered lunch is provided Monsignor Schlert will celebrate Mass at 1:15pm. Offering for the day is \$20. Please send your check payable to "Serra District 80-1" to Joe Zawaly at 803 Forest Street, Fleetwood, PA 19522-1021 by May 1st. If you have any questions, contact Steve at phone 610-779-8477.

Women's Day of Spirituality June 10, 9am-3pm - Cost \$20 St. Thomas More Family Center - Theme: "Blessed Is She" Reflections on Elizabeth, Mother of St. John the Baptist. Presenter: Reverend Richard Brensinger. To register, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/CFW-spirituality. Call Joanie at 917-406-4879 with questions.

Hurting from a past abortion? Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend, June 23-25 through Catholic Charities. Within a safe, confidential, non-judgmental environment, experience God's healing love and forgiveness. For info or to register call Sr. Meg at 610-332-0442, x19, 1-866-3Rachel, or projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org.

Please join St. Catharine Parish on May 21st at noon for a Mass of Thanksgiving as we honor the service of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A light lunch reception will follow. Please RSVP to ihmcs@gmail.com by May 5th.

Knights of Columbus Annual Pro-Life Golf Outing – May 5th at Twin Ponds Golf Course, Gilbertsville. \$100 per golfer includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, golf and prizes. \$35 dinner only. Contact Gary at 610-972-0356 or Mark at 610-754-7185. Proceeds benefit local crisis pregnancy centers.

We invite you to join us with your 9-13 year old daughter for the Mother Daughter Tea to talk about Fertility Appreciation, Modesty and Virtue. April 30th, 1-4pm at St. Joseph Medical Center. Cost is \$30/family. Register today at <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/family-life/natural-family-planning/> or contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at 610-289-8900.

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Dinner - April 30th, 12-3pm - Nativity BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, 211 Grace St, Reading - 610-376-0586

Calendar

Monday

April 24

Easter Weekday

Acts 4:23–31

Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday

April 25

St. Mark,

Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b–14

Mk 16:15–20

Wednesday

April 26

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17–26

Jn 3:16–21

Thursday

April 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:27–33

Jn 3:31–36

Friday

April 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:34–42

Jn 6:1–15

Saturday

April 29

St. Catherine of Siena,

Virgin and

Doctor of the Church

Acts 6:1–7

Jn 6:16–21

Sunday

April 30

Third Sunday

of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22–33

1 Pt 1:17–21

Lk 24:13–35

Dear Padre,

Does the Church allow sick and elderly people to have “do not resuscitate (DNR)” orders?

Yes. The Church understands the human person as a union of body and soul. Made in God’s image and likeness, we cannot separate our physical life from our spiritual life. When our bodies die, our spiritual existence continues. Thus, to believe that we are morally bound to exhaust all possible medical treatments incorrectly overemphasizes the good of our physical life here on earth—which our faith teaches comprises, in the end, shadows and dust—and overlooks the good of our spiritual life as well as the eternal destiny to which we are called by God.

There comes a time when medical intervention, beyond that required to keep a person comfortable and to relieve pain, is unnecessary and can excessively burden the patient or the family. Elderly and imminently dying patients are not obligated to undertake unreasonable or excessively burdensome medical procedures or to use measures that sustain life beyond basic nursing care such as proper hygiene, food and fluids (when they can be assimilated into the body), comfortable room temperature, turning to avoid bed sores, and other means.

Having conversations with loved ones about this matter is an excellent way to find support during times of suffering and loss. “Do not resuscitate (DNR)” orders can be part of the process of letting go of the life we have known while embracing the new life that awaits us in Jesus Christ.

Source: *Liguorian*, March 2011



PONGMOJI/SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word From Pope Francis

“We are called to abandon the behavior of sin and fix our gaze on what is essential. ‘A man is more precious for what he is than for what he has’ (Gaudium et spes, 35)...This love conquers sin and gives the strength to rise and begin again... and [be] rejuvenated.”

—Homily, March 28, 2014